entitled 'Veil—The Secret Wars of CIA-1981-87' by Bob Woodward. The book does not identify any Indian official who is alleged to have spied for United States of America. Government do not also have information to confirm these allegations.

Schemes for Optimum use of Reservoirs

2550. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of National Water Management, any study or evaluation has been made of the Ganga-Cauvery Link proposal of Dr K L. Rao, Himalayan and Garland-Canal Schemes of Captain Dastur and Telugu-Ganga Scheme, for optimum use of river waters;

(b) if so, what are the findings, conclusions and follow-up action taken on the basis of the study; and

(c) which are the States which will be benefited by the implementation of the Schemes and the quantum of water to be made available to such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The Ganga-Cauvery link proposal of Dr. K L. Rao and the Garland Canal Scheme of Captain Dastur have been examined. The first scheme would require large blocks of power for lifting water whereas the second scheme was evaluated to be technically unsound and economically prohibitive As an alternative to the above mentioned proposals, a National Perspective, involving construction of storages and interlinking of rivers with a view to divert surplus water to deficit regions has been formulated with two components. The Peninsular rivers development component of the scheme is under study by an agency set up for this purpose. The Telugu Ganga Scheme is a specific project proposed by a State Government and does not fall under the above categories

Reduction of Import Duty on N-Paraffin and Excise Duty on PTA

2551. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI N E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import duty on N-Paraffin and excise duty on PTA have been reduced recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for such a reduction; and

(c) what are the names of the synthetic fibre companies which have benefited by this decision and to what extent, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Import duty on N-Paraffin when imported for manufacture of Linear Alkyl Benzene was reduced to 30 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from the 29th October, 1987. This step was taken in the interest of indigenous production of Linear Alkyl Benzene. PTA was exempted from excise duty with effect from 29th October, 1987 placing it on par with the alternative raw material for manufacture of polyester staple fibre and polyester filament yarn viz. DMT which is already exempted from excise duty.

(c) Does not arise, as there is no production of PTA at present.

Amount released for irrigation Projects

2552. SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 236 crores had been recently released for irrigation projects in drought affected areas, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, State-wise and project-wise?